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THE BAPTIST

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Missionaries blazing a trail to unreached

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (BP) — Beside a jungle river in Suriname, a village chief stared at a tiny, wooden cross he held in his hands.

"You mean somebody can die and be raised from the dead?" the elderly chief asked, interrupting a gospel presentation by missionary Courtney Street.

"Yes, that's what we're saying about this great Jesus. That's exactly what he did," said Street, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary in Suriname, a former Dutch colony in northern South America.

Street continued telling the gospel story to the members of the unreached tribe called the Saramaccans. When he finished, he asked if anyone wanted to accept Christ as Savior.

The chief began fiddling with the wooden cross, a gift from Southern Baptist volunteers who were working with Street and an evangelical church-planting team targeting the Saramaccans. "You could tell he was seriously considering this decision," said Street, who then was a new missionary still in language study. "Finally, he raised his hand and said, 'Yes.'"

That day nearly 80 Saramaccans accepted Christ in that village, a stronghold of voodoo.



BRINGING THEM IN — Courtney Street (left), a missionary of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, docks a canoe along the Suriname River during a volunteer project in Suriname's rain forest. Street was assisting a planting team taking the gospel to the Saramaccans, an unreached tribe that lives along the river. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Their conversions illustrate a growing response to the gospel among the Saramaccans, descendants of African slaves who escaped from Dutch plantations in Suriname in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Saramaccans aren't the only people in Suriname who need Christ. That's especially evident in Paramaribo, the capital city where Street and his

wife, Arleen, live with their four children. The city contains Hindu temples, Islamic mosques, and Jewish synagogues. Suriname has a diverse population: More than half of the people are Asians, many of them descendants of indentured servants. Another 40% are Africans, whose ancestors were slaves. The rest are Amerindians and Europeans.

The Streets find many opportunities to share the gospel among this amazing ethnic mix. "What excites me the most is that wherever we go, people are willing to listen when we talk to

them about the gospel," said Street, a native of Jamaica who immigrated to the United States as a young adult.

"We're catalysts," said Arleen Street, from Upper Marlboro, Md. "One of our jobs is to say to believers who are already here, 'Run, brother. Run, sister. You can do it.'"

The Streets want to play that same role in mobilizing Southern Baptists — especially African Americans — for missions. "There's so much more to the Christian life than just sitting in church on Sunday," she said. "Missions is where the action is."

The Streets were moved to missions work after viewing the evening news. As they watched a report on political unrest in Haiti, images of destitute Haitians flashed across the television screen. "We asked each other, 'Would you be willing to go to a

place like that to serve?'" she recalled. Suddenly it was like when God said [to the prophet Isaiah], 'Who will go?'"

"Send us" was the couple's response. Since the Streets became missionaries in 1997, they've prayed that other African American believers also would answer God's call to global missions. "We know the Father has invited others to join him" on mission, Arleen said.

To learn more about overseas opportunities through the International Missions Board, e-mail [initial.contacts@imb.org](mailto:initial.contacts@imb.org) or call toll-free (888) 422-6461.

## Drake seeking gun permit

BUENA PARK, Calif. (BP) — Southern Baptist pastor Wiley Drake, who initiated the motion that led to the Southern Baptist Convention's boycott of The Disney Corporation, has applied for a concealed gun permit because of threats he says he has received from some of the homeless people he houses on church property and from advocates of abortion and homosexual rights.

Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Buena Park, Calif., also has announced the formation of Americans United for the Unity of Church and State, an organization he says is intended to return the church and the government to the "biblical foundation and principles which were understood by the founding fathers of America and guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights."

Though he applied for the gun permit April 1, Drake has yet to be informed if it has been granted, he told Baptist Press (BP) July 12. The sheriff's office told him about two weeks ago it was being considered, Drake said. His attempt to gain the permit was reported by The Orange County Register, a daily newspaper in Santa Ana, Calif.

Drake keeps a pistol in his office and a shotgun at home, he told The Register.



Drake

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Former foreign missionary Dellana West O'Brien, president of the International Family and Children's Educational Service in Richmond, Va., is elected executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention. She succeeds Carolyn Weatherford.

### 20 years ago

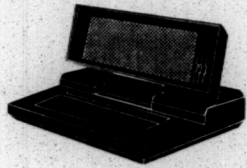
Cason Church in Monroe Association enrolls a record 401 children in Vacation Bible School. Average daily attendance for the school is 319 children. There were 12 professions of faith. Pastor James Rutledge states, "VBS was an expression of our love for children."

### 50 years ago

First Church, Holly Springs, breaks ground for a three-story education annex. The building, which is expected to cost over \$35,000, will provide a large recreation hall, library, and kitchen, plus education space for beginners, juniors, and young people. H. H. Aultman is pastor.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**  
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# Refocusing the nation's attention

**T**he tragedy that befell the Kennedy and Bessette families last week surely was as indescribable as grief-stricken relatives painted it. The deaths of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, and his sister-in-law in the crash of a small aircraft at sea left two families bereft of three young people in which many hopes and dreams had been invested.

The loss was compounded by the fact that it was a family wedding to which the occupants of the single-engine Piper Saratoga were headed when they abruptly disappeared from air traffic control radar screens. A family marked by so much tragedy in the past found itself once again in mourning at what should have been a most joyous time.

Regardless of our political inclinations and other worldly considerations, it should be the hope of every Christian that these three people had the opportunity to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior before their untimely deaths.

Having said that and with all due respect for the pain of the families who lost their beloved so suddenly, an examination of the public reaction to the tragedy is in order—especially where coverage by the national news media is concerned.

In a word, it was disgraceful. Within a few hours of reports the airplane was missing, reporters descended upon the Kennedy property on the island of Martha's Vineyard off the Massachusetts coast, which was the destination of the doomed flight.

With the preempting of regular programming, American television viewers were treated to over a week of talking heads in Polo shirts standing along the barren, barricaded street leading to the Kennedy property. Every news show—morning, noon, evening, and late night—covered every detail of the tragedy with near-maniacal obsession.

Every Kennedy family member, every Kennedy highlight, and every Kennedy

scandal were replayed. Live video shots from helicopters overhead treated us *ad nauseam* to the ghostly sight of empty wedding tents.

Meanwhile, two U.S. soldiers were killed in Kosovo. China began yet another official crack-down on religion. The Russian economy, like its leader, got sicker.

Yet these important stories received scant reportage while network television news devoted 20-25 minutes of precious air time to the Kennedy story and newspapers shrunk those same stories to news briefs in order to make more room for the Kennedy coverage.

Don't be too hard on the news media, however. They live and die by ratings, so they have to give the American public what they want—and what the American public wants is to worship celebrities like the Kennedys.

For the final half of this century (if not longer), Americans have been obsessed with celebrities. That's why Madonna's nude photos and Bruce Willis' adultery are such hot news. We don't care nearly as much about the important issues that will affect us for generations, as we do about the sex lives of celebrities.

That's the true disgrace. We have focused on the trivial and the insignificant—and driven the news media to focus on it in our behalf—to the point that we have lost the ability to discern what is important.

**"I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE A  
BAPTIST. SO—TELL ME ABOUT  
THE BIBLE!"**



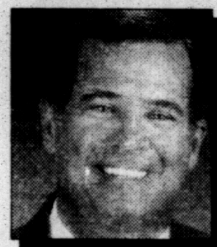
That's why there's been so much coverage on the President's underwear preference.

As Christians, let's take the lead in bringing this country back to the important issues, and there is no more important issue than this: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son as a living sacrifice so those who believe in him will not taste death but instead have everlasting life.

Let's start there. It's up to us as followers of Christ to see that everyone in the world has an opportunity to hear that message. All other issues pale in comparison.

The hour is late, and there is much to do. Let's get busy!

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL



### Mississippi Baptists: standing in the gap?

By Dean Register, president  
Mississippi Baptist Convention

There is also a gap between worship and witness, and God calls us to close that space so that our intimacy with him may energize our proclamation for him.

Why do you suppose we don't stand in the gap when the need is so apparent? One reason may be that we don't see the necessity. Our vision is too limited. We don't perceive what's at stake in the spiritual warfare around us.

Another reason we don't stand in the gap may be due to our fear of responsibility. Standing in the gap for Christ is exhausting. It requires stamina for the fight. It asks us to walk out on the battlefield against a firestorm of hostility.

I'm encouraged to know that Simon Peter entertained all the hesitations that we do now, yet

he discovered a way to stand in the gap. If we tear a page from Peter's script during Pentecost, we can take three decisive steps that will move us into the gap.

First, we need to act courageously when the opportunity arises. Peter realized a door of opportunity was open. He stood up and walked through it.

The world has always turned its head to hear a person of courage. Winston Churchill once said, "At any moment in history the world is in the hands of two percent of the people: the excited and the committed." Peter was not only excited and committed, but also grounded in the soil of courage.

When Mississippi Baptists act courageously the world may assume that we are intoxicated babblers, but heaven will

testify that we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Second, we need to stand upon the authority of Scripture for wisdom. Peter didn't rely upon his own bravado. He referred to Scripture. He saw in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus the completion of God's redemptive purpose. He took the wisdom of the Word and applied it to the confusion of the culture.

A final step we can take to get into the gap is to point others to Jesus. No matter how clever our arguments or how logical our persuasion, we can't impact others for eternity apart from Jesus.

Peter clearly stated that Jesus died for the sin of the world. He called for repentance. Mississippi Baptists must not back away from a loving but bold declaration of the necessity of repentance.

Our culture doesn't need a little clean-up. It needs a major overhaul of righteousness that can only come through Jesus Christ.

Standing in the gap is not a mandate for a few, but a requirement for all of us. So stand!

Register is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.



# Courses to be offered in Mississippi by NOBTS

August 23 begins the first of eight courses at nine locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans (NOBTS).

The total eight courses are: Song Leading; Worship Planning; Reading Music; Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music; Harmony/Melody; Hymnology; Music Administration/Staff Relations; Survey of Music Resources; Class Voice. These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year

period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on-campus degree program. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$75.

The first course "Song Leading" will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- Calvary Church, Greenville — beginning August 23 (7-9 p.m.) Dave Tribble, teacher.
- Broadmoor Church, Jackson — beginning August

23 (7-9 p.m.) Jimmy McCaleb, teacher

- First Church, Columbus — beginning August 23 (7-9 p.m.) Bobby Sanderson, teacher.
- First Church, Purvis — beginning August 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) James Hayes, teacher.
- First Church, Summit — beginning August 23 (7-9 p.m.) Doug Spires, teacher.
- First Church, Booneville — beginning August 23 (7-9 p.m.) LuAnne Ford, teacher.
- Northcrest Church, Meridian — beginning August 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Buddy McElroy, teacher.
- Hernando Church, Hernando — beginning August 23 (7-9 p.m.) Barry Tweedy, teacher.

- Bay Vista Church, Biloxi — beginning August 24 (7-9 p.m.) Bob Chichester, teacher. These classes could be offered at other locations in the state also, where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact Julius Thompson, 117 Napa Valley Circle, Madison, MS 39110. Telephone: (601) 856-4341.

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# Record

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## Youth Night takes upswing in decisions

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The twin sessions of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night July 23-24 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson drew praise from promoters and saw an increase over last year in the number of decisions made for Christ, according to the chairman of the committee that planned the annual event.

"Everything went great. We were very pleased with the worship leadership of Michael O'Brien and the powerful message brought by Neil McClendon; their integrity and dedication to the Lord were evident," said Matt Buckles, director of the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

O'Brien is a Christian vocalist who lives in Nashville and recently joined the popular Christian music group NewSong. McClendon is a youth evangelist from Houston, Texas.

"The attitude, the atmosphere, everything was conducive to what we wanted to do," Buckles said.

About 7,000 people attended the July 23 (Friday evening) session, and 500-700 people attended the July 24 (Saturday morning) session.

"The Saturday morning attendance was disappointing. That session started strong when we began it in 1996, but it has declined each year since then. The Youth Night committee is going to have to take a hard look at what must be done about the Saturday morning session," Buckles said.

A total of 91 decision cards were turned in after the two events. The cards included 31 professions of faith, 45 recommitments, and 15 other decisions for Christ. Each decision card is referred to the pastor of the church listed on the decision card as the youth's home church, Buckles said.

"Typically, there are many others who make decisions but don't turn in a card. A pastor called to let us know that two young people in his church had walked the aisle the following Sunday and made a profession of faith as a direct result of Youth Night," he pointed out.

In addition to O'Brien and McClendon,

Youth Night '99 featured a presentation on YouthLink 2000 by Darryl King of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a presentation on hunger by Steve Nelson of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

Youth Link 2000 is the ambitious program to utilize satellites to link a number of locations across the country on New Year's Eve to provide a Christian-based celebration of the new millennium.

The hunger presentation was a special part of the Youth Night '99 program designed to raise young people's awareness of hunger needs around the world and "show the genuineness of our evangelism" by responding to those hunger needs in the name of Christ, Buckles explained.

Buckles also reported that the conduct of the young people who attended was exemplary.

"They were the most well-behaved group we've had in several years. There are always a few who want to roam the halls instead of sitting through the message, but there weren't many of those folks this year.

"Even the security officers noted how well-behaved the young people were. We're all proud of the witness these young people put forth while they were here for Youth Night," Buckles said.

Buckles also expressed appreciation to the Youth Night '99 committee that planned the event, and especially to Michael Pierce, youth minister at First Church, Pearl; Gary Watts, member of Wynndale Church, Terry; and Larry Salter, consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department.

Youth Night '99 marks the final year of Buckles' five-year tenure as chairman of the Youth Night Committee. Don Lum, consultant in the MBCB Evangelism Department, will assume the chairmanship for Youth Night 2000.

"I'm going to miss it. There's a lot of work involved, but there's also a tremendous feeling to see it come together as an effective ministry," Buckles said.

Lum said he looked forward to increasing his role in Youth Night planning. "I've

been bringing young people to Youth Night for 20 years (as a youth minister). It's the largest youth event in Mississippi Baptist work, and it was the cornerstone of my youth ministry.

I think it's important for Christian young people to interact with other Christian young people and hear a clear presentation of the Gospel in a fresh way that will change their lives, and I believe Youth Night accomplishes those goals," he said.

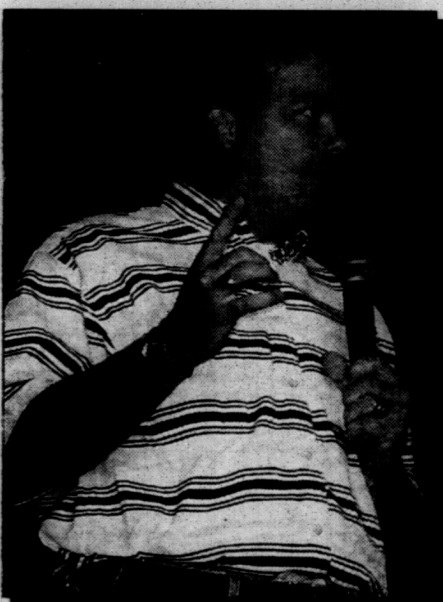
Youth Night 2000 will be held July 14-15 in the Mississippi Coliseum — two weeks earlier than usual because of a scheduling conflict with another event at the coliseum. Youth Night 2001 will return to the traditional last weekend in July, Lum said.



Buckles



Lum



McClendon



O'Brien



# Novelist Lamott shares faith, writing tips

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

"I am not an accomplished writer. I am a committed writer," Anne Lamott told aspiring and veteran writers in Mississippi College's Swor Auditorium.



Lamott

## Interfaith certification set for Sept.

The Interfaith Witness Evangelism Certification Conference will be held Sept. 17-18 at Lake Tiak o'Khata resort near Louisville, beginning with registration at 3 p.m. on Sept. 17 and concluding with the noon meal on Sept. 18. Certification will be offered by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention on the subjects of:

- Judaism, taught by Jim Sibley, national consultant on Jewish ministry in the NAMB Interfaith Evangelism Department.

- Roman Catholicism, taught by Bill Gordon, interfaith evangelism associate at NAMB.

Every association is encouraged to send representatives recommended by the director of missions, so they can become resource persons available to conduct awareness conferences with their local association.

Deadline for making reservations is Aug. 10, subject to limitations of space. For more information and to acquire a reservation form, contact local directors of missions or Ed Deuschle, interfaith witness coordinator in the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Lamott was on the Mississippi College (MC) campus in Clinton July 8 as the keynote speaker for the first annual "Words to Wield This Wonder: A Writer's Workshop and Conference," sponsored by MC and the Milton Center at Newman University of Wichita, Kansas.

The conference/workshop was underwritten by a grant from the Hearin Foundation of Mississippi. The

purpose is to give both aspiring and published writers the opportunity to learn from some of today's leading Christian writers, according to a press release from MC.

Californian Lamott has published five novels, including "Hard Laughter," "Rosie," "Joe Jones," "All New People," and "Crooked Heart" (the sequel to "Rosie"), as well as three best-selling books of non-fiction. "Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life," is a guide to writing and the challenges of a writer's life. "Traveling Mercies" is a collection of autobiographical essays on faith which includes Lamott's unusual conversion experience.

In addition, Lamott has been honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship and her biweekly Salon Magazine online diary "Word by Word" was voted The Best of the Web by Time magazine.

The great thing about writing for Salon magazine is, "I get to write about God," Lamott says. "They didn't say I couldn't write about God. They said I could write about anything, so I write about God."

As a result, Lamott refers to herself a "somewhat subversive Christian writer."

"Subversive used to mean you wrote about communist stuff for normal people. I write about Christian stuff for leftist audiences. It is a huge, hungry, thirsty audience," Lamott said.

Lamott was raised in a family that celebrated atheism and disdained Christianity. By her own confession, there's not a left-wing issue that her family did not champion.

It was after having an abortion and drinking herself into a stupor for six straight days that she had an encounter with Christ that changed her life.

"I love Jesus," she told the audience of writers, "and I love my church. I am amazed that even someone like me could be loved by God."

Lamott says her family is embarrassed by her Christianity, although one brother shares her faith. "The others refer to it as 'Annie's little blind spot,'" she said.

She finds herself criticized on both the left and the right. "I get a lot of hostile letters at Salon from people who don't like me writing about my faith."

"The Christian right is equally mad, sort

of saying 'get her to stop.' In some of those circles I'm not seen as a real Christian.

"I may not be a very good Christian. I just love Jesus. I may not be near the dessert table in heaven, but I will be there," she said.

She is currently working on her sixth novel, but not because she is eager to write another novel. "Writing takes a lot of work," she said. "It makes you crazy."

Lamott said she fought writing another novel, but came to the conclusion it was God's will for her.

"I tried to explain why I think he should have a different will for me. He laughed. Then I started getting my operating instructions."

"I was filled with terror and anxiety, but I have started. When you start getting information about God's will, things start snowballing. Creatively, things start to happen," Lamott said.

She told about reading from Charles Allen's book "God's Psychiatry," where the story is told of the orphan children of Europe at the end of World War II who, because of hunger, could not sleep at night unless given a slice of bread to hold. It relieved their anxiety of not having anything to eat the next day.

As Lamott works on her sixth novel, she says God has given her a slice of "holding bread" to help her through.

One slice of holding bread is understanding what good writing is all about.

"Good writing," Lamott says, "is about telling the truth — about God, about God's children, and taking care of God's children."

Lamott warned the audience not to write in order to be published.

"For some people, being published means the world has validated your parking ticket, but what happens to you once you get published? You will find there is no food for your soul in publication."

"It doesn't heal you. It doesn't teach you who you are or where you are. I should know. I've done it six times," she said.

Lamott challenged aspiring authors to find another reason to write besides being published.

"Your motive for writing may be to look good, to be seen as smart, or to make others smarter or more spiritually attuned. Ultimately, though, writing is about how you feel about you."

"The truth is, while publication doesn't have much to offer, writing really

does," Lamott said.

Another slice of holding bread for Lamott is the fact that when writing, you get to write "really bad first drafts."

"We are taught as children not to waste paper or waste time staring off into space, but good writing requires both of these. To write badly at first is an act of faith."

Lamott not only dispels the myth that good writers get it right the first time around, she also dispels the myth that good writers know before hand where their writing is going.

"Writing is like driving a car at night with your headlights on. You can only see 20 feet in front of the car, but you can make it all the way."

"I tell writers to get a one-inch picture frame, then capture on paper what you can see through that one-inch frame."

"There is a voice that says that is not enough, but it is, for now."

"Another voice says you have to be in perfect shape before you start, but perfectionism is really the voice of the oppressor, the voice of the enemy," Lamott said.

"Grace meets you where you are, and it never leaves you where it found you. Grace is a 'come as you are' party," she said.

## Lights, camera, rain



Wendi Taylor (inside window) of Clinton moves into position as camera crew members apply "rain" to the window and prepare to shoot a segment of the new series of television advertisements being produced by the church information support team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The ads showcase Mississippi Baptists in everyday scenes shot around the state, while the soundtrack features an original recording of "Amazing Grace" and a prayer specially written for the advertisements. The ads will begin airing in the next few weeks on Mississippi television stations that are members of the Mississippi Broadcasters Association. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



# Super Summer super for training leaders

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

A total of 345 high school and junior high students gathered July 19-23 on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton and at First Church, Clinton, for Super Summer 1999.

Super Summer is not for every teen, said Harvey Ellis, youth and recreation consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"Sometimes a youth minister will call and ask about bringing his entire youth group to Super Summer. That is not what this is about.

"Super Summer is a special camp for students who really desire to deepen their relationship to Christ. It's not for every student in a youth group. It is for those who are rising to the top, who really have a heart for Christ, and show a desire to grow and get deeper in their relationship with Christ," Ellis said.

This has been Super Summer's design since it was started 13 years ago, according to Sue McAllister, former student minister at Harrisburg Church in Tupelo, who now travels for the National Youth Ministers Network and Barry St. Clair Ministries.

From the beginning, Super Summer was designed to be a leadership and evangelism training camp for select youth, McAllister said.

"Super Summer is for students who want more than Sundays and Wednesdays and fun camps. We wanted to raise up some students who would impact their generation for Christ," she said.

Super Summer is organized by schools, according to the

number of years a student has participated. The schools are labeled by colors. This year there were eight schools with a total of 345 students, plus around 90 staff, according to Ellis.

The orange and red schools were for first year students. The two blue schools were for second year students. The yellow school was for third year, the green school for fourth year, and the purple school for fifth year students, Ellis said.

There was also a white school of youth workers and other adults.

The schools are led by an executive staff that consists of over 40 youth ministers from around the state. They are assisted by 50 team leaders, who are college students.

"The staff teaches daily sessions in the different schools. There are 10 sessions during the week. Plus, each school has its own praise and worship leader," Ellis said.

Each evening, all the schools gather in Swor Auditorium for Rainbow Celebration, a two hour worship service.

This year's worship leaders included Kevin Williams of Clinton for praise and worship, and Gary Permenter of Columbus, for preaching.

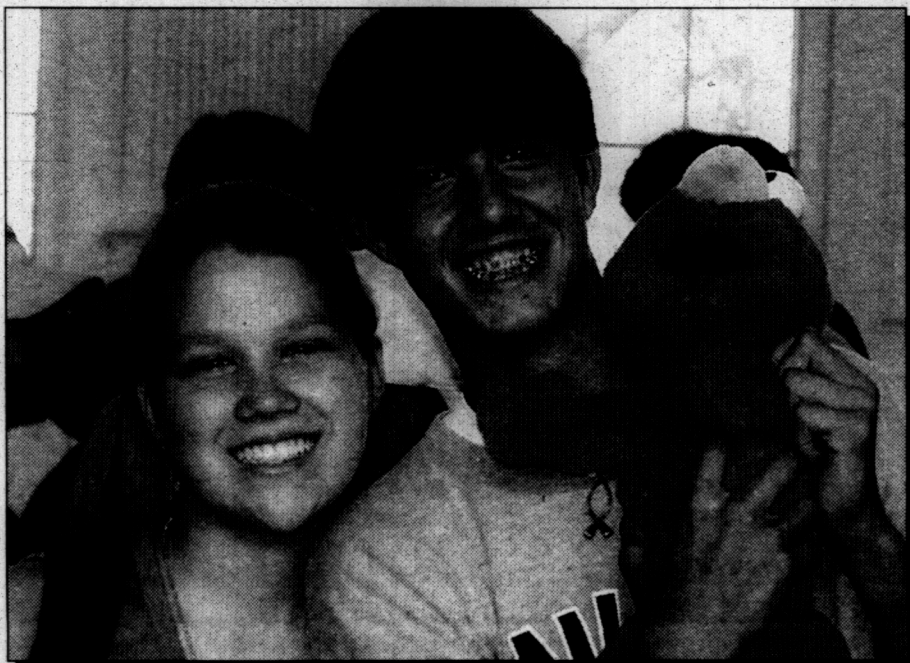
"There is a progression in Super Summer," Ellis said. "The material is designed that way. First year students are exposed to some basic principles of the walk with Christ. The teaching moves deeper with each successive year," Ellis said.

Allison Dickey of Tupelo, a senior at the University of Mississippi, just finished competing in the Miss Mississippi pageant in Vicksburg. She says her four years at Super Summer helped prepare her for that experience.

"Super Summer did a lot to help prepare me for things like the Miss Mississippi pageant because it taught me a lot about myself, about how to be a strong Christian, and how to really stand for my morals and values. So, when I was challenged in an interview setting I didn't back down. I could state clearly to them that the Lord Jesus Christ is my personal savior and he is important to my life," she said.

"We feel the training students get at Super Summer prepares them to make a difference at their schools, homes, and communities, and in their jobs on down the road. We expect to see benefits for years to come," Ellis said.

For more information on Super Summer 2000, contact Ellis in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3284 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: hellis@mbcb.org



RED SCHOOL ALL THE WAY! — Jonathan Barlow (right) of First Church, Hattiesburg, and Esther Neal of First Church, Clinton, hold up a red Elmo doll, mascot for the Red School at Super Summer 1999 on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)

## VOTE

It was that period of time between spring and summer when the pastor of the church planned a special evening service outdoors. Envision the congregation meeting out where there were bleachers in a recreation area within steps of the church. In that location he hoped that everyone would enjoy a special outdoor, different from the norm, worship service. As the time drew near for the event, the pastor began to announce the special service and encouraged the congregation to encourage people to attend. For some, including the pastor, the excitement of such an event began to grow but an undercurrent of discontent and murmuring among the people began to surface. Some in the congregation, including a few of the deacons, began to question, "When was this presented and did we ever vote on changing the place of our worship service?" The answer was "No!" A special deacon's meeting was convened to call the pastor in and confront him with his oversight of not voting on changing the location of the worship service.

Now from where they nor-



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

mally met in the sanctuary to where they would be meeting on that Sunday night was less than 50 yards, and the pastor had frankly not recognized how important it was for the deacons to be informed and for the people to vote! In some churches it would make no difference and they would move forward. In other churches it is a huge difference and all systems grind to a halt until we understand we are going to vote. Well, the meeting went fine. The pastor admitted his oversight and after he apologized for the inconvenience, the ruffled feathers settled down, and the service went on as planned.

Baptists are democratic people who want to get their say said even if they are in the vast minority, even if what they are so concerned about is insignifi-

cant, and so some Baptists vote on everything — times and places, bushes, and bulletins. While we have been so democratic and want to vote, we also can be a peculiar lot. Some of us, who would really get upset because we didn't get to vote on a 30-minute time change on worship service, will not take the time nor show the interest to go to the polls and vote in a state election where decisions will be made and people will be chosen who literally can reshape our state and society.

On August 3, Mississippians have an opportunity to participate in primary elections. A huge field of candidates running for various political offices have been begging for your vote. They know how important you are. The purpose of my writing is not to endorse a list of candidates,

but to endorse *you*, for you are the one who has a vote and you are the one who can make a difference. I certainly understand why some people may choose not to vote. Some are overwhelmed by the number of candidates and feel as though they are unable to get proper information or are unqualified to choose one out of the bunch. There are others with a rather cynical view that think it makes no difference if they vote or not. The truth is a vote is important to you and you are important to the vote.

Stop for a moment and try to think what it would be like if we could not vote — whether national, state, or local, we had absolutely no way to express our preferences. Think about it in these terms. Let's just suppose there was a national crisis created by war or any other disaster and that President Bill Clinton declared martial law and cancelled all elections. Would you care? I think I know the answer to that question and I hope that you will care enough to participate as an involved Christian citizen in the upcoming election.

Leaders do make a difference, and you can make a difference too.



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



The Morgans

**Allison Morgan**, (left) 11, from First Church, Holly Springs, caught a 20 lb. drum fish and Junior Morgan (right) caught a 40 lb. fish at Gulfshore Assembly during Family Week. Next year's Family Week will be held at Gulfshore Assembly July 3-7, 2000.

**GA Recognition Service** was recently

held at First Church, Durant. Pictured (from left) are Vicky Watts, leader; Emily Leathers; Carly Welch; Jessica Bell; Chealsie McNeer; Rebecca Bell; Rita Rodgers, leader; and Melanie Wages, leader.

**Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City**, will celebrate its 107th anniversary at 10 a.m. on Aug. 8. The guest speaker will be Floyd Higginbotham of Bogue Chitto. Mike Sutton is pastor.



GAs of First Church, Durant



Mission Friends of First Church, Hazlehurst

**Mission Friends** were recognized recently at First Church, Hazlehurst. Pictured (front row, from left) are Jonah Henderson; Landon Chapman; Sarah Ballow, leader; Anna Walker; Jon Newman; and Andrea Sims; (2nd row) Susanna Henderson; Brian Davidson; Alex Berry; and Tyler Cartwright; (back row) Carolyn Tompkins, leader;

Tammy Newman, director; and Tessie Jones, leader.

**Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames**, a dramatic presentation of real life experiences, will be presented at Pass Road Church, Gulfport, at 7 p.m. on Aug. 15-18. Tickets are free and available by calling the church at (228) 863-1697. Edgar Jackson is pastor.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Liberty Church, Union Association**, recently ordained Alan Russell as deacon. Pictured (from left) are Russell, and Shawn Davis, pastor.

**Cherry Creek Church, Ecu**, ordained Shane Montgomery as deacon on July 11. Pictured (from left) are Montgomery, and Don Wilson, pastor.



Montgomery and Wilson

**Oakland Church, Walnut**, Randy Buse to the ministry on June 20.



Cogbill, Davis, and Buse

Pictured (from left) are Cogbill; Lyndle Davis, interim pastor; and Buse.

**New Hope Church, Sumrall**, honored Sam Herrin, Rufus Morgan, and Mack Aultman, with a



Herrin, Morgan, and Aultman

church-wide supper June 19. These men have served as deacons for a total of 67 years.

**Colonial Heights Baptist Church presents**



Monday, August 9  
7:00 pm

**Craig & Bean**

Colonial Heights Baptist Church  
5708 Old Canton Road • Jackson, MS 39211 • 956-5000



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Triple L** (Live Longer and Like It), the senior adult organization of First Church, Kosciusko, observed their 23rd anniversary on July 18 during morning worship. Charter members Gladys

Mooney, Connie Stone, and Grady and Beatrice Robertson were honored. Ministries of Triple L include Bible schools, revivals, area meetings, retreats at Central Hills, Gulfshore, and Ridgcrest

Assemblies, and opportunities for fellowship and fun at monthly luncheon meetings. Officers are Nellie Gary, president; Kelly Middleton, vice-president; and Ellen Scarborough, secretary. Barry C. Corbett is pastor.

**Trilogy Conference** featuring Richard Blackaby, T. W. Hunt, and Robertson McQuilkin will be held at Ridgcrest Church, Madison, on Aug. 9 from 3-9:15 p.m. There is no cost for the conference, but the church requests that pre-registrations be made within 14 days of the event. For more information call the church at (601) 853-1090.

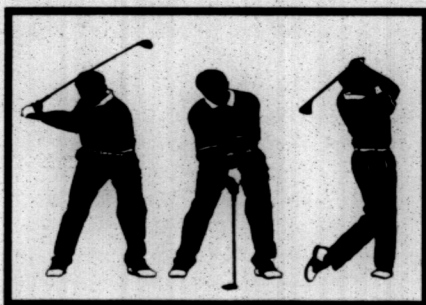


**Acteen Recognition Service** was recently held at New Hebron Church, Lawrence Association. Acteens (pictured, from left) are Callie Walker, Kathryn Little, Christy McCloud, Elisha Davis, Leanne Daughdrill, and Ashley Bridges.



**Mississippi College**

## Tenth Annual Ministers' Golf Tournament



**August 2 - 3,  
1999  
Live Oaks  
Golf Club**

- Open to all ordained ministers, including pastors, church staff, directors of missions and BSU directors.
- 36 holes of golf with prizes and fellowship lunch.
- Cost - \$65 per person.
- Cosponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
- Register by mail with the form below or call 601.925.3263 for more information.

### Ministers' Golf Tournament Entry Form

Please mail entry form and registration fee to:  
Ministers' Golf Tournament, Box 4031, Clinton, MS 39058

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap or Average Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline is Friday, July 30, 1999**



**RAs of First Church, Hazlehurst**

**RA Recognition Service** was held recently at First Church, Hazlehurst. Pictured (front row, from left) are Paul Sims; Joshua Scruggs; Alex Guess; Phillip Douglas; and Justin Chapman; (2nd row) Hank Jordan; Bryce Guess; Bryan Jones; and Langston Berry; (3rd row) Clark Little; Reece Hankins; Luke Henderson; Nicholas Lambert; Stephen Bozeman; and Daniel Henderson; (4th row) Jay Keywood; Stephen Assink; Mark Jones; Eric Walker; Matthew Lambert; and Jake Guess; (back row) Randy Hankins, director; Lucas Delariva; Mark Henderson,

leader; and Jerry Keywood, leader. Not pictured are Will Davis; Preston Berry; Trey Fisher; Jordan Newman; Chase Davis; and Art Stevens, leader.

**Oakdale Church, Brandon,** will have special Monday night services beginning Aug. 2 and continuing through Aug. 23. Services begin at 6:30 p.m. each Monday night. Events scheduled include The Gospel Echoes; Darko Velichkovski, president, Miss. Symphony Orchestra; Joe Shelton, guitarist, song writer, humorist; Paul Jones, executive director, Miss. Christian Action Commission. Gene Neal is pastor.



**Members of Dry Creek Church, Simpson Association,** recently held a note burning ceremony celebrating full payment of a loan used to build a two-story educational facility. The church was able to pay off the 15-year loan in five years and seven months. Charles Burnham is pastor.

**GA/Acteen Recognition Service** was held recently at First Church, Hazlehurst. Pictured (front row, from left) are Virginia Little; Katie Newman; Brittney Newman; and Grace Bozeman; (2nd row) Hannah Jordan; Rebecca Davidson; Brittney Newman; Rebecca Hankins; and Cathryn Cartwright; (3rd row) Laura Jackson; Katie Jackson; Ashley Newman; Julie Hankins; and Cheryl Guess, leader; (back row) Rita Jackson, leader; Becky Bozeman, director. Not pictured are Taylor Mangold and Jessie Smith.

## Miller pens millennium Jesus tribute

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP and local reports) — Calvin Miller spent a year and a half gathering facts, portraits and little-known quotes about Jesus for a millennium tribute to the Son of God. The result is "The Celebrate Jesus! Millennium Bible."

Miller, professor of preaching at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, is a popular speaker at Mississippi Baptist conferences and other meetings. Broadman & Holman, the publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, is publishing the Bible.

"The main purpose we've forgotten during the media hype about Y2K is that the year 2000 is a celebration of the Christian faith. We want this Bible to take the focus away from Y2K and bring it back to Jesus," he said.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## VBS dates

**Woodhaven, Ocean Springs:** Aug. 2-6; 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**Van Winkle, Jackson:** Aug. 2-6; 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. (includes supper); ages 4 through adult.

## MATCH WORDS, DEEDS

Editor:

Your recent editorial raised the question of what might have caused such low attendance at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). I would offer two suggestions as possible reasons.

First, many feel everything has already been decided. The convention is not allowed to speak on the vast majority of motions made from the floor. They are referred to committee and the committee, not the convention, makes all the decisions.

Second, many are disturbed by the hypocritical actions of SBC leaders. During the takeover of the current leadership, they talked of doctrinal purity. They excluded longtime Baptists because they did not believe just like the current leadership.

Yet they sponsor and promote conferences featuring a preacher whose church teaches baptismal regeneration and another whose church has women deacons.

They are using and endorsing preachers who do some of the same things for which they condemned fellow Southern Baptists. I believe our leaders' actions and words should match.

Harold D. Fleming, pastor  
First Church, Porter, Okla.

## LOW NUMBERS EXPLAINED

Editor:

Thanks so much for the fine job you are doing as editor of The Baptist Record. Your editorials are, usually, right on target. I especially enjoyed the recent one which dealt with the lack of Mississippi Baptist representation at the denominational level, and your latest (on low SBC attendance) which makes many valid points.

I would like to point to one possibility you may have overlooked in your analysis of the lack of delegates at the last SBC, and that is: I no longer attend because I feel that the SBC doesn't have much of relevance to offer me. I do not feel at home or even welcome at the SBC. The last one I attended was in New Orleans in 1990.

Now, it might be that I am an easily offended, wild-eyed, flaming liberal who chooses to absent himself, but if such is the case I can easily name for you at least six of the same genre who reside within a lot less than a day's drive and more than that scattered throughout the state and still more in the denomination.

Add to this number that most who are not attending because of alienation are also not encouraging others to attend, and you might come up with an overlooked, significant-sized group of non-attendees.

Robert M. Moore Sr., pastor  
Morgan City Church  
Morgan City

## SEEKING NAVAL STUDENTS

Editor:

Heritage Baptist Church in

Annapolis, Maryland, is seeking information on any students who will be attending the United States Naval Academy this year.

Please contact me at 1740 Forest Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. I may be reached by phone at (410) 263-6680 or by fax at (410) 263-0996.

Henry Green, pastor  
Heritage Baptist Church  
Annapolis, Md.

## THANKS FOR PRAYERS

Editor:

Just a few words of thanks for your prayers for my wife, Linda Holder, over the last few months.

I just want you all to know that God has performed another of his miracles. All the prayers you fine prayer warriors have put before our Heavenly Father have been answered!

When we got to the hospital with my wife on the night of March 10, no one could find a lower blood pressure and her top pressure was only 30, but God saw fit with the prayers of all you fine Christians all over our state, to bring her back!

Now, what we all should do is give God thanks, for he is the only one that could have done this miracle!

Again, I want to say thanks for all your prayers and thank God for his answer.

Andy Holder  
Jackson

## PASTOR NEEDED

Editor:

Rhein Valley Baptist Church, a congregation of 65 people is in need of a pastor. We are an English language church serving the wider Frankfurt (Germany) region. If God is leading you to pastor in a mission setting, please contact us either via e-mail (100620.3021@compuserve.com) or via normal mail to the following address: Michael A. Gerlach, 233d Base Support Battalion, CMR 431, Box 1335, APO AE 09175.

Hansjoerg Nymphius  
Chair, Pastor Search Comm.  
Rhein Valley, Germany

## ANNIVERSARIES UPDATE

Editor:

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission (MBHC) is happy to report that of the 42 Mississippi churches eligible to celebrate significant anniversaries during 1999 (100th, 125th, 150th, 175th, and 200th), 28 have already scheduled or conducted celebrations. Of these, four churches are commemorating 100 years; six are commemorating 125 years; 10 are commemorating 150 years; and eight are commemorating 175 years — making a total of 4,050 years of service in the Lord's Kingdom.

The Commission counts it a distinct privilege to have a representative present at each of these celebrations to present an anniversary certificate and letter

of congratulations. If there are churches that should be among this number but for some reason have not been contacted by the Commission, we invite them to notify us immediately.

On February 19, 2000, we will again be conducting a Church Anniversary Workshop at First Church, Clinton, for churches that will be conducting a significant anniversary in 2000, 2001, and 2002. We will be contacting these churches early in 2000 with specific details of this workshop.

We strongly encourage all of our churches to preserve a record of their past which will assist them in committing anew to a promising future.

Rachel A. Pyron, librarian  
MBHC, Clinton

## CALLED TO MISSIONS

Editor:

Just a note to thank you for the wonderful Baptist Record. I especially enjoy the "Looking Back" notes, and this prompted me to drop you this note.

I was born and raised at Decatur and graduated from Mississippi College in 1949. I was working as a house parent at the Baptist Children's Home when God called me to foreign missions in Nigeria, West Africa. We sailed in August 1949 and I'll stop there.

You can see that 50 years ago and 1999 are important to me.

Jim Clark  
Birmingham, Alabama

## HOMEcomings

**Darlove, Hollandale:** Aug. 1; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; Bob Gilliland, guest speaker; Ron Roberts, pastor.

**Rock Bluff, Smith County:** Aug. 1; 11:00 a.m.; Tom Burnham, Hendersonville, N.C., guest speaker; George Boone, music; Mike Clark, pastor.

**First, Raleigh:** Aug. 1; 11 a.m. with a covered dish meal served in fellowship hall; Jerry Sullivan, former pastor, guest speaker; Jerry Peagler, music; Lyn Nations, pastor.

**Star, Star:** Aug. 8; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; service, 10 a.m.; dinner to follow service; Vic Bowman, pastor.

**Sardis, (Smith):** Aug. 1; 10:30 a.m.; dinner served following service; afternoon singing featuring Gospel Messengers, 1:30 p.m.; Frank Smith, music; John Purvis pastor.

**Society Hill, Oakvale:** Aug. 1-4; former pastors will bring messages; Sun., 11 a.m., James D. McLemore; Sun., 2 p.m., Songs of Praise; Mon., 7 p.m., Guy Henderson; Tues., 7 p.m., Russell Bush; Wed., 7 p.m., Tom McCurley. Dee DeBold, pastor.

**Whitesand, Prentiss:** Aug. 8; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall at noon; Stanley Stamps, guest speaker; Stan Cheatham, pastor.

**Sunrise, Petal:** Aug. 1; 99th year; Robert R. Slack Jr., former member, message; Robert Fennell, former music and youth director, music.

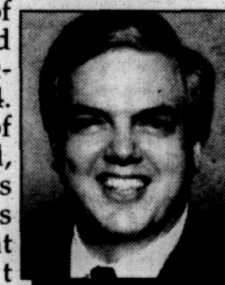
**Handsboro, Gulfport:** Aug. 15; 125th anniversary; service, 10:50 a.m.; dinner on the grounds immediately following service; Wesley Ellis, guest speaker; Jimmy McCaleb, music.

**Southside, Jackson:** Aug. 8; 60th anniversary; service, 10:15 a.m.; Jeff Parker, pastor.

## STAFF CHANGES

**First Church, Brookhaven,** has called **Bob Jones** as associate pastor of music and media effective March 14.

A native of Rock Island, Texas, Jones received his education at Southwest Texas State University and Southwestern Seminary. Jones previously served at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.



Jones

**New Hope Church, Sumrall,** has called **Richard Larve Hamilton** as pastor effective July 1. He was previously pastor of Ora Church, Collins.

**Handsboro Church, Gulfport,** has called **Michael Olewski** as pastor effective June 20. A native of Orlando, Fla., Olewski received his education from Florida State University and New Orleans Seminary.

**Parkhaven Church, Laurel,** has called **James L. (Jim) Balliet** as pastor.

**Mount Vernon Church, Columbus,** has called **Charles Little** as associate pastor/ worship and music. Tampa Baptist, Tampa, Fla., was his previous place of service.



## REVIVAL DATES

**New Hope, Foxworth:** Aug. 8-13; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. David Millican, McComb, evangelist; Edwin Sudduth, McComb, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

**Mt. Zion, Brookhaven:** Aug. 1-6; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Grady Crowell, guest evangelist; Jewell Greer, music; Tim McCaffrey, pastor.

**Midway, Newton:** Aug. 1-4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Kevin Meador, evangelist; Wayne Miley, pastor.

**Lakeshore, Jackson:** Aug. 1-4; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; covered dish lunch following morning service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., catered meal 5:30 p.m.; David Michel, evangelist; Clayton Pope, music; Joe Crout, pastor.

**Wheeler Grove, Corinth:** August 1-4; Sun., 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Meridian, guest speaker; Kara Blackard, pastor.

**Rock Bluff (Rankin):** Aug. 2-4; 7:30 p.m.; Joe Aulds, Ruston, La., guest speaker; Ray Gates, music; Mike Clark, pastor.

**Acts, Raleigh:** Aug. 5-8; 7 p.m.; Joe Aulds, Ruston, La., guest speaker; Mike Clark, pastor.

**Rocky Springs, Yazoo City:** July 30-Aug. 1; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.; Rocky Henriques, Bentonia, evangelist; Tim Trillet, pastor.

**First, Raleigh:** Aug. 1-4; 7 p.m.; Bill Webb, Meridian, evangelist; Byron Cutrer, Mobile, Ala., music; Lyn Nations, pastor.

**Sardis (Smith):** Aug. 2-6; Jerry Sullivan, evangelist; Jerry Sparks, music; John C. Purvis, pastor.

**Leesburg (Rankin):** Aug. 1-4; Bruce Gill, Albany, La., evangelist; Kinsey Goldman, music; Randall Jackson, pastor.

**Bethesda, Crawford:** Aug. 1-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gene O'Brian, evangelist; Archie Chesser, Columbus, music; James R. Hutcherson, pastor.

**New Haven, Weir:** Aug. 1-5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bobby Waggoner, director of missions, Attala Association, evangelist; Walter Simpson, Weir, music; Bobby Parish, pastor.

**Duffee, Little Rock:** Aug. 1-4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenny Rhodes, former member, evangelist.

**Ogden, Bentonia:** Aug. 1-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m.; Ken Anderson, Clinton, evangelist; Bill and Martha Martin, Bentonia, music; Emerson Tedder, pastor.

**Providence, Grenada:** Aug. 1-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Truman Scarborough, evangelist; Tena Taylor and Don Montgomery, music; Harvey Springer, pastor.

**Bowlin, Sallis:** Aug. 1-4; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Barry Corbett, Kosciusko, evangelist; Van "David" and Pam Cain, music; Bobby G. Oakes, pastor.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Society Hill Church, Covington-Jeff Davis Association,** recently held its ground breaking ceremony for a new two-story fellowship hall/education building. Pictured (from left) are Dee DeBold, pastor; Jim Langston; Tandy and Irma Polk; Myrtis



Hemphill; Adam Williamson; Mack Regan, building contractor; and Doyle Miller, dirt contractor. The church will celebrate its 175th anniversary with revival and homecoming activities Aug. 1-4. Former pastors returning for homecoming are James D. McLemore, Biblical studies designer and editor of

the Biblical Illustrator; Guy Henderson, editor emeritus of The Baptist Record; and Russell Bush, pastor of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

**Ground breaking at Society Hill Church**



**Madden Church, Madden,** held a ground breaking ceremony on July 4 for a new sanctuary. Building committee members that participated include Gale Gunn; Eddie Holmes, pastor; Wade Moore; and Jack Morgan, chairman. Not pictured is Wilma Jean Hillman.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Artistic works of Joey Kim Sessums will be on display in the Samuel Marshall Gore Art Gallery at Mississippi College through Aug. 13. The gallery is located in Aven Hall and is open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sessums' work includes pencil drawings as well as bronze sculptures of Billy Graham, Eudora Welty, Andrew Wyeth, and Winfred Wiser done from private sittings with each of the subjects.

Mississippi College summer commencement exercises are scheduled for Aug. 7 at 10 a.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum. Degrees for approximately 140 graduates will be conferred by Howell W. Todd, president. Thomas D. Layzell, commissioner of higher education for the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, will be guest speaker.

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**ALASKA CRUISE WITH DR. CHARLES STANLEY** for July 11-18, 2000. Deadline August 1, 1999. Call Rev. Jon Nichols at (601) 939-2975 for details.

**FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME** — Tallahassee needs a husband-wife team to be primary residential staff for the girls home. Excellent salary/benefits. Work for 2 weeks on duty, 1 week off. Come minister in the lives of children! Call Pam at 1-850-878-1458.

**CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED:** Full-time position available at Baddour Center, Senatobia, Mississippi, for director of renowned 22-member traveling choir, The Miracles. Baddour Center is a Christian ministry to adults with mild and moderate mental retardation. Contact Gena Lott, 662-562-9666, ext 301, or fax 662-562-6979.

**WE ARE RENOVATING!!** Sanctuary furniture must go! Please call 228-475-6660.

**SMALL CHURCH NEEDS ONE MILLION** Campbell's labels for van used with Spanish and Ethiopian Missions plus Youth and Seniors. Send to: Wellswood Baptist Church, 5101 North Rome Avenue, Tampa, FL 33603.

**GROUPS - CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT,** Eureka Springs, Ark, for front seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$35.00 each! Free information - 501-253-8418.

**PARADISE LANES:** Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Outdoor paintball games! Year-round! 10 years experience. Book yours today! Curry Creek Outdoors, 1161 Old Hwy 49, Seminary, MS 39479, (601) 722-9000.

**FOR SALE:** 1993 Metrotrams Mini-Bus, 25 passenger - Rear and front A/C - Ford 460 EFT Engine, \$25,000 - Mileage 90,000. Phone 601-763-7571.

**BRANSON, MO CONDO** sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th night free or stay 5 nights and 2 nights free. Free in house coffee and tea. Free dinner tickets for stays on birthdays or anniversaries, \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip and 3 king quilts. 601-746-4632.

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

#### PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER.

Sunday is only day of service required. Out-of-town applicants welcomed. Weekend accommodations will be provided. Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Nina Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** is needed at Gunter Road Baptist Church. Send resumes to Dick Steadman, 1220 Gunter Road, Florence, MS 39073. Call 601-932-2542 or 601-939-2542.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

**CORNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH** is looking for a part-time music director for Sunday morning and Sunday evening services. This is a paid position. Not required to sing solos but that would be a plus. Cornersville Baptist Church is located on Hwy 349, 12 miles south of Potts Camp, MS. John D. Noland, Pastor. Please call 662-333-7097 anytime.

**BRIAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH,** Rankin Association, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music. Please send resumes to: Briar Hill Baptist Church, Search Committee, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073.

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SINCE 1953



## Fugitive's flight prompts alert to churches

DALLAS, Texas (BP and local reports) — An agent with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) is warning churches to be wary of a dangerous fugitive whose history allegedly includes kidnapping, rape, and robbery.



Cronn

TDCJ agent Louis Fawcett has been tracking Preston Carl Cronn since March 16 on a trail through 10 states. Cronn is wanted by the sheriff's department in Boise, Idaho, for grand theft after he allegedly took a minister's maroon 1998 Chevrolet extended-cab pickup truck. He is believed to still be traveling in the truck with an Idaho license plate, 1AE1136.

Fawcett described Cronn as a white male who stands 6'2" and weighs about 150 pounds. He has blonde hair and hazel eyes.

Fawcett said Cronn approaches ministers and asks for money, food, and a place to stay — usually in the minister's home — in exchange for repair work. He tells them his construction business in Idaho failed and he has lost everything, including his wallet and identification.

Fawcett said Cronn was last seen in Dunn, N.C. There have been no confirmed reports of Cronn in Mississippi, but there has been a frightening encounter with at least one pastor in nearby Alabama.

The Texas officer asks anyone who knows of Cronn's whereabouts or has been victimized by Cronn to call him immediately at (214) 922-7335.

# '99 a busy year for Bible translation news

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Developments in Bible translation have made 1999 a busy year thus far. In addition to potential controversy surrounding a new gender-neutral, or gender-inclusive, translation under way by the International Bible Society — the guardian of the New International Version — three other key announcements have been made this year concerning the rendering of God's Word in contemporary English:

One involves a new translation under the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) umbrella; a second involves an evangelical revision of the Revised Standard Version; and a third is a translation squarely oriented toward abstinence from alcohol.

The three announcements, in summary:

◆ Broadman & Holman (B&H) Publishers, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC, is producing a new Bible translation, named the Holman Christian Standard Bible (CSB).

The translation will combine commitment to accuracy in communicating the original text and modern-day readability, said Kenneth H. Stephens, B&H president, in a May 7 announcement. The Gospel of John has been completed, with all four gospels and the Book of Revelation set to be finished by the end of 1999. The New Testament is targeted for completion by the end of 2000, with the entire Bible to be released by 2004.

The project encompasses a 78-person team of translators, lexicologists, stylists, and other scholars around the world coordinated by a six-person team headquartered in Dallas. Team members represent 20 denominations, including Southern Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, Presbyterians (PCA), Congregationalists, Church of England, Church of God, Evangelical Free Church, Methodists, Evangelical Mennonites, and Episcopalians.

◆ In mid-February, several prominent Southern Baptists endorsed an inerrancy-based edition of the Revised Standard Version (1971) to be published as the "English Standard Version" by Crossway Books, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, Ill.

The ESV will be "more literal than the New International Version," one scholar told Baptist Press, "and more readable than the New American Standard Bible," which some people use because it is an "extremely literal translation." The ESV will be geared toward mature readers, the scholar said, but also for preachers to use in sermons without having to explain so often, "What it means in the original language is ..."

Among the Southern Baptists on the new English Standard Version's 51-member advisory council are Paige Patterson, president of

Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and his wife, Dorothy; R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Thomas R. Schreiner, professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern; Carl F.H. Henry, theologian and founding editor of Christianity Today magazine; Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; and Jerry Falwell, TV preacher and pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va.

Additionally, the ESV's 12-member translation oversight committee will include Paul R. House, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary, as associate chairman of the project's Old Testament committee.

Crossway, in its news release, said the ESV adaptation of the RSV will be published under a licensing agreement with the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., for English language publication in North America

and the rest of the world.

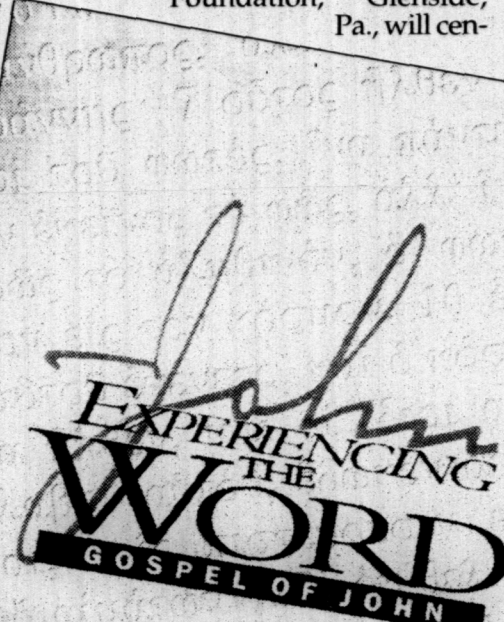
◆ A new translation being produced by the Lorine L. Reynolds Foundation, Glenside, Pa., will cen-

A Purified Translation, The Gospel According to John," for example, translates "the water that had become grape juice" in the John 2:9 account of Jesus' first miracle at a wedding in Cana, the Biblical

Recorder reported. Footnotes to the translation say the Greek word usually translated as "wine" in John 2 is "neutral as to alcoholic content." Since Jesus would have obeyed an admonition not to look at alcohol in Proverbs 23:31, he would not have created alcoholic wine, the footnotes say.

About 40,000 copies of the gospel were mailed May 17-18 mostly to Southern Baptists, with foundation officials citing Baptists' opposition to alcohol.

The main translator for the project is 90-year-old Stephen M. Reynolds, who holds a doctor of philosophy in Old Testament languages from Princeton University and has taught at several seminaries. Reynolds formed the foundation in honor of his deceased wife. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is now a member of a denomination called the American Presbyterian Church. He said he was baptized by immersion in a conservative Baptist church and still believes in believer's baptism.



WITH NOTES BY  
**HENRY BLACKABY**  
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF EXPERIENCING GOD



Ron Moore, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

This is from Joni Eareckson Tada's book — *Heaven, Your Real Home*. I wanted to share this with you since you don't believe animals will be in heaven. Joni believes they will be there, and I do, too!

"I think animals are some of God's best and most avant-garde ideals; why would he throw out his greatest creative achievements? Isaiah foresaw lions and lambs lying down together, as well as bears, cows and cobras; and John foresaw the saints galloping on white horses. I have no idea where they will fit, but I'm certain they will populate part of the new heavens and new earth."

Thanks for your letter. To me, this does not bring conclusive evidence that animals will be in heaven. I firmly believe that in heaven, being

in the presence of Christ will be so wonderful that everything else will seem minor. Everything!

My adult son has wrought terrible public disgrace on our family. How can I continue to hold my head up in the small town in which we live?

Your son has done the wrong, not you. Everyone has the choice on how they will live their life. You may not have been the perfect parent (by the way, no one is) but the fact remains that he ultimately made his choice as an adult. He will have to face the consequences. The burden you carry is immense because of the disappointment you feel in your own son. Stop and consider —

what were the investments that you made in his life? Recall the good times you had with your son and the values and principles you imparted to him. Give yourself the grace to release him into adulthood and pray that he will learn from the consequences, repent of this wrong, and make something positive out of his shame. Encourage him to do the right thing, and look for ways to affirm his giftedness so that he does not wallow in the guilt and never rise above the pit. Satan works at getting us to take our eyes off what is right, and then keeps us away by beating us up with guilt. Rather, we must accept the fact that, "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Ps. 103:12 NIV)

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## LIFE AND WORK

### The secular life

Luke 12:13-21

By Tony Martin

We are seeing an interesting new awareness of values these days. After the tragedy at Columbine High School, our culture seems to be doing some real soul-searching. Even Hollywood, long the bastion of questionable values, is asking itself the hard questions.

All people base their lives on certain values. For the Christian, we understand that all our values would be categorized either as Christian or non-Christian. The decisions we make based on those values have significant consequences.

How do we base our lives on God's values? We want to examine what happens when

someone bases their life on secular values and, in turn, misses out on life's true purposes.

**Motivated by secular values (Luke 12:13-15).** Jesus was teaching when a man interrupted him. "Tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me," he bleats out.

Jesus refused to get involved in this argument. The man had completely misunderstood Jesus' teachings. Jesus knew that no answer he gave would satisfy the man.

We see here a picture of pure greed in the hearts of these two brothers, and Jesus understood that no answer he could give would solve the



Martin

real problem. They didn't need a legal arbitrator; they needed to have their hearts changed.

Success isn't measured by the amount of one's physical possessions. That is evidence of a secular mindset.

**Choosing on the basis of secular values (Luke 12:16-19).** Jesus wanted

the people to understand that while we do have certain basic needs, the acquisition of more "things" wouldn't make life easier. He told this parable, often known as "the parable of the rich fool."

What a wonderfully evocative title! Here was a man who had a problem of too much wealth. He saw all this wealth as an opportunity to please himself. He had so much that he decided to tear down all his barns and build larger ones. He thought he'd have all he'd ever need. He had a false sense of security.

Frankly, money does satisfy, if you want to remain on a purely materialistic level, but man is not an animal. There is more to life than luxury and plenty, and the person who has all that money can buy might very well lose the things money cannot buy.

The farmer made his choices based on secular values, and in so doing placed self first. While it's certainly prudent to save for the future (1 Timothy 5:8), selfishness based on wrong values should never be our motivation.

**Reaping the results of secular values (Luke 12:20-21).** Henry David Thoreau wrote, "That man is the richest whose pleasures are the cheapest." Jesus didn't see this farmer facing life and abundance; he saw him facing death.

Sure enough, God, who has a way of collecting his dues, took this man's very soul. In the spirit of the old joke of "I've

never seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul trailer," this man left behind all his earthly belongings. The man seems to have lived apart from God and then died apart from God, to his everlasting ruin.

A literal translation of verse 20 would read, "This night they (the rich man's material possessions) are demanding your life (soul) from you." What a frightening picture!

So what does it mean to be "rich toward God?" It means to acknowledge that all we have comes from God, and that we should use what we have for others and for God's glory.

The farmer in this story died apart from God, and while we as believers will never find ourselves in that position, we can also experience loss if we base our values on the accumulation of material things. God is not impressed with our money.

Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### The grace of giving

2 Cor. 8:1-23

By Ted Dukes

While we do not find the words recorded in the gospels, Paul quoted Jesus as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

With this beatitude in mind the Apostle made it a priority of his ministry to remember the poor (Gal. 2:6-10), to the inclusion of taking up a special relief offering for needy Christians (Acts 11:27-30).

Perhaps he believed that taking this offering among the Gentile churches for the Christians of Jewish descent would bridge the cultural gap and strengthen the unity of the sharing churches.

Unfortunately, the Corinthians were not doing

their part. The spiritual problems within the church were manifesting themselves in the arena of their generosity, a common phenomenon today.

In an effort to encourage the Corinthians to strive toward a higher spiritual level and, consequently, become giving Christians, Paul defines giving as an act of grace. He used nine different words to refer to this offering, the most common being "grace." Paul wanted the Corinthians to truly believe that it is more rewarding to be a giver than a taker.

He used the Macedonian churches as examples of congregations that had experienced grave difficulties, and



Dukes

yet had given generously (8:1-2).

Our circumstances should not be the deciding factor as to whether or not we give to the Lord. The great paradox of the work of Christ in the life of an individual is that by becoming poor, we become rich (6:10).

Difficult financial circumstances are no excuse for not giving, but an excellent excuse to give.

Of course, there are those who give, but not in the right spirit. Paul reminded the Corinthians of how the Macedonian churches did not require prodding to give, but begged to be included (8:3-4).

There have been very few times in my ministry when I have opted not to take an offering as a part of a worship experience, inasmuch as bringing an offering to the altar was always a part of worship in the Bible.

However, when those times

have occurred I have never had anyone stand up and beg that the service be continued so that an offering might be taken. That's what Paul says the Macedonian Christians did. Their giving was an act of grace, not pressure.

Paul knew that it is impossible to give oneself to God and not give oneself to others. Jesus said it is impossible to love God and not one's neighbor, so Paul points out that the Macedonians' giving was motivated by love, even as was our Lord Christ's sacrificial giving (8:7-9).

The Corinthians had said that they loved Paul and the saints, and Paul in these verses gave them an opportunity to demonstrate that love through giving.

The story is told of one man who came to his pastor in a state of panic. "I made a mistake when the offering was being taken and pulled a \$100 bill out of my wallet instead of a \$1 bill. I intended

to give a dollar!"

The pastor replied, "Don't worry! I'm sure God recorded the dollar." Paul made it clear that our willing and doing must coincide in our giving (8:11; Phil. 2:12-13).

Certainly in most cases it would be unwise for a person to go into debt to relieve somebody else's debt. Paul was not asking the Gentile Christians to do anything irresponsible, but they were enjoying some measure of material prosperity while the Jewish Christians were suffering terribly.

Knowing that the tables might one day be reversed, Paul encouraged the Corinthians to obey God and believe that, even as he provided for the needs of others through their giving, he would provide for their needs as well.

The most spiritual thing an individual or a church can do is use its money wisely for spiritual ministry.

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Unexpected encounter

Genesis 27:41-28:22

By Grant Arinder

**Random graces (28:10-16).** I write to you this week from the grounds of our LifeWay Conference Center — Ridgecrest in Black Mountain, North Carolina. I am attending a Centrifuge conference with the youth from our community.

By way of report, God is doing mighty things in the lives of hundreds of youth and adults this week. We are blessed to have the Centrifuge program and Ridgecrest to host it. There are about 600 students here this week from various states, but the state of Mississippi has the largest group.

The worship leader for the

week is a young man named Brandon. The other night in worship he told us a story that parallels the events in this text.

Brandon shared that he used to have a Christian band that traveled the country leading students in praise and worship. He explained that on one of these various trips they traveled to some random town to play for another random group of students.

The band leader had given no altar call of any kind, nor had he prompted the students in any way. As a matter of fact, he said it was during some random part of the service, that the



Arinder

Spirit of an unrandom and uncommon God showed up in a very unrandom way.

Students, without prompting, began to leave their random seats to huddle on the floor. They formed an uncommon altar and prayed in an uncommon way to the uncommon

God who transformed this random place into Bethel, the house of God. This story is a modern account of what happened to Jacob on his flight to Haran to save his life.

"Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place...." You never know where we might encounter God...or God encounter us.

The text reveals that Jacob found himself in a "certain place" — some random, no-name town along his path of deception and flight. Being

night, he stopped to rest. He grabbed some random stone to place under his head, to enjoy another random night of sleep.

Then, God showed up in a very unrandom and uncommon way and made a very special promise to a very unrandom person — Jacob, the deceiver.

The story of Jacob is the story of every New Testament Christian. It is the story of sin and grace. Two realities existed in Jacob. First there was Jacob the deceiver and liar, plotting and scheming. Then there was Jacob, the heir of the promise.

Jacob did not deserve the blessing; he had not earned it. If anything, his actions should have disqualified him from receiving it. Yet, God's divine grace was extended to him.

These two realities exist in every Christian. We are also deceitful and undeserving. We have not earned God's blessing, yet because of God's grace

we now are the children of promise and the heir of Abraham's, Isaac's, and Jacob's promise (cf. Hebrews 4 - 10).

Jacob awoke from his sleep and vision of God and took this random stone and formed with it an uncommon altar. This random location has now become Bethel, the house of God.

God took a deceitful Jacob in a random town, laying on a random stone and created epiphany and sanctuary, the supernatural presence of God.

God, how we need to hear and experience the truth of this passage. Take our mundane and make it mountain-top. Take our random and make it religious. Take our "certain places" and make them sanctuaries. Thank you for blessing us in spite of our deceitfulness and making us heirs of a great promise. Thank you for grace undeserved. Thank you for random graces ordained by you.

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.



# 'Kindness Explosion' rekindles missions

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — They called it "Kindness Explosion," an opportunity on the last day of the On Mission '99 conference to demonstrate Christ's love by distributing free soft drinks, light bulbs, water, and even change in a coin laundry.

Although immediate decisions were not necessarily the ultimate goal, six individuals made professions of faith in Christ during just over an hour of actual ministry. And perhaps just as importantly, conference participants were able to put into immediate action the awakening the week's events had prompted to the desperate spiritual needs around them.

"It builds a fire up in your heart, a desire for the Lord," Marshall Dill said of his first-time experience conducting a door-to-door evangelistic survey — one of the few traditional evangelistic tools used in the project. "This is something I am going to take back to my church and start it in the fall — maybe sooner, as on-fire as I am now."

The June 26-July 2 conference was designed to help leaders awaken their own congregations

to become "on-mission" churches — full of people committed to a lifestyle of leading people to a relationship with Christ.

Sponsored by the North American Mission Board, the conference was held at the Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. The Kindness Explosion event continued a NAMB tradition in recent years of includ-

ing hands-on evangelism and ministry opportunities in surrounding communities as part of its conferences.

In Asheville, a group in an apartment complex offered residents a free bottle of spring water with an evangelistic message on the label. One group that included church planter Trevor Davis also took the opportunity to ask residents if they'd like to hear about "the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

Two women accepted Christ — one had grown up in the home of Jehovah's Witnesses and had been seeking answers to her confusing questions, and the other was a practicing lesbian. She asked for help for the friend she knew was now going to have to move out of her apartment.

"She said, 'I'd like to become a Christian, but I know I don't want to leave her on the street,'" said Davis, who will launch Great Commission Church this fall as a mission of First Church of Olive Branch (Miss.).

Dill, a lay minister and member of West Point Church, Rutherfordton, N.C., said he always has been reluctant to do door-to-door evangelism because of the perceptions created by other non-Christian groups.

"When I got here, at first I said, 'Let me just give out water or give out Coke — anything but that,'" he said, "but the Lord worked on me."

Another newcomer to door-to-door evangelism was Michaelle Shultz, a member of First Baptist Church, Beltsville, Md.,

who has been a Christian only about a year. She and her church's Woman's Mission Union director, Gail Salgado, were burdened by the spiritual darkness they had wit-



**BUILDING A CHURCH** — Tiffany Hooper of Columbia, S.C., played with Lego blocks during the "Missions Up Close and Personal" missions fair June 30 during On Mission '99 at Lifeway Conference Center Ridgecrest. The booth, designed to allow conference participants to try their hand at "building" an on-mission church, was staffed by Darwin Sokoken (left), North American Mission Board national missionary for Filipino ministries based in Chicago. (BP photo by James Dotson)



**A LITTLE KINDNESS** — Mack Slaughter of Shreveport, La., hands a cold Coca-Cola to a motorist in downtown Black Mountain, N.C., as part of a "Kindness Explosion" event on July 1. (BP photo by James Dotson)

nessed in Asheville a few days earlier and had been praying for the city since that time. They were excited when they learned of the opportunity to go back bearing the light of Christ.

"I am very shy, but God has just been revealing this to us all week," Shultz said. "It has been awesome... but if not for the power of God, I wouldn't have been able to do it."

## Mission trip for Columbine victim saves dozen

FREMONT, Neb. (BP) — A recent mission trip honoring a student slain in the Columbine High School tragedy resulted in a dozen people accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

While some teens from the sponsoring Denver-area church were disappointed with those numbers, the pastor of the only Southern Baptist congregation in Fremont, Neb., a town of 23,000 people, couldn't be happier.

John Sneed of Fremont's Emmanuel Church has approximately 50 names — gathered during door-to-door surveys — of people interested in learning more about the gospel. That equals the average Sunday morning attendance at the 20-year-old church.

"It's the best thing we've ever seen," said Sneed, who came to the church in 1994. "People are starting to talk. Suddenly there's an enthusiasm to go out and do things. I can't even imagine all the ramifications that will come out of this."

Riverside Church South in Parker, Colo., dedicated its trip the last week of June to the memory of John Tomlin, who, along with a teacher, was one of 12 students killed at Columbine High April 20 by a pair of suicidal student gunmen.

Although a member of Foothills Bible Church in Littleton, Tomlin had attended Riverside's youth group for the last year. Forty-one of 60 members made the trip, along with 11 adult chaperones.

While Tomlin was the only

Columbine victim from Riverside South, the suburban Denver church's ties to the highly publicized tragedy helped spark larger-than-normal turnouts and media attention.

In the group's first stop in the small town of Madison,

Neb., population 2,100, several hundred flocked to the city auditorium to see them perform "WWJD? The Musical."

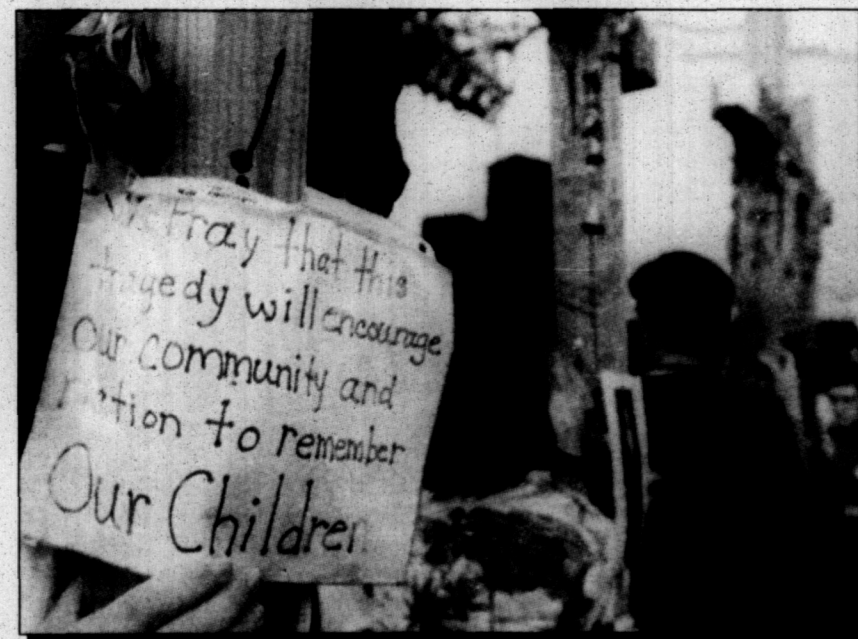
Boyd Evans, Riverside South's associate pastor of youth, said the group added a twist to the play by including a testimony from Michelle Oetter, who had begun dating Tomlin soon after he started attending Riverside.

Two girls accepted Christ as Savior at Westside Church in Omaha, where Oetter spoke at a mid-week service. About 20 others came forward for prayer or to pray for friends, which energized the recent high school graduate.

"I went looking for God to work in one little area, but as the week went on, it became clear God was working all around...," she said.

Pastor Sneed said if other teens and adults had the same kind of heart for the lost as the Colorado teens, there would be a huge boost in evangelism.

"It shows their depth of heart," Sneed said. "(A student) summed it best at the end of the week. He said, 'Fremont, Neb., wasn't the most glamorous place we could have gone on a mission trip, but we did Kingdom work this week.'"



**REMEMBERING** — A sign and other memorabilia adorn 13 crosses carried into Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park by Frontliners, young people trained in personal evangelism, during the Gettin' Free Youth Concert June 12, sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. The crosses were brought to Atlanta by Greg Zanis of Aurora, Ill., to commemorate the lives of the Columbine High School shooting victims. (BP photo by Jim Yates.)

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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XQ X YNKV FJCZ RJM  
VNHFYCR FYIAE, NIZ RV  
WVCXVKV IJF, YTL EYNCC  
RV WVCXVKV, XQ X FVCC  
RJM JQ YVNVICR FYXI-  
AE?

GJYI FYHVV: FLVCKV

Clue: I = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Four: Twenty-Four.